

Remarks

I. Introduction

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2008.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-15, 17, 18, and 19-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,206,572 to Farag et al. (Farag). The Office Action rejected claims 6 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farag in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,732,212 to Perholtz et al. (Perholtz). The Office Action rejected claims 9 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farag in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,183 to Kawai (Kawai).

Claims 1-27 are pending.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Independent claims 1, 11, and 21 were rejected as being anticipated by Farag. In order for a claim to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102, **each and every** limitation of the claim must be found either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. PIN/NIP, Inc. v. Platte Chem. Co., 304 F.3d 1235, 1243 (Fed. Cir. 2002). In the present case, Farag does not show each and every limitation of independent claims 1, 11, and 21. Therefore, applicants request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

The present invention generally relates to configuring a soft starter system. As described at page 7, lines 6-10 of the specification, a motor controller includes solid state switches that control application of three phase AC line power to a three phase motor. As is well known in the art, solid state switches, such as back to back connected silicon controlled rectifier (SCR) pairs, thyristors, and triacs, are electronic switches that, unlike electromagnetic relays, contain no moving parts. (See, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solid_state_relay and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Solid_state_switches). As described at

page 9, line 19 – page 10, line 17 of the specification, an external device communicates with a memory of the controller to transfer configuration database files including parameters relating to operation of the solid state switched to and from the memory of the controller.

The above described aspects are recited in independent claim 1. In particular, independent claim 1 recites the limitations of “providing the motor controller to include solid state switches for controlling application of power to the motor,” and “transferring a configuration database file between the controller memory and the external device memory, the configuration database file comprising a plurality of stored parameters relating to operation of the solid state switches”. Independent claims 11 and 21 recite similar limitations.

Farag does not disclose these limitations of independent claims 1, 11, and 21, and therefore cannot anticipate claims 1, 11, and 21 under the strict anticipation standard of §102.

Farag is directed to a micro-computer based motor controller that performs the functions of motor starting and overload protection. The starter function of the controller is customized for a particular application by storing program steps representing the input command and output control logic peculiar to a given motor in a programmable non-volatile memory cell. As illustrated in FIG. 1 and described at column 4, lines 10-23, an electric motor 101 is controlled by a circuit opening and closing mechanism, or contactor, having a contacts 103 and an actuating coil 104. The actuating coil 104 is energized by a coil driver stage 113 to open and close the contacts 103. The coil driver stage 113 can also control two other contactors having contacts 105 and 107 and actuating coils 106 and 108, respectively. As described at column 4, lines 24-33, when current is supplied to the actuating coil 104, the contacts 103 close and connect the motor 101 to the power source 124 via electrical conductors 102. When the current to the actuating coil 104 is interrupted, the contacts 103 open and disconnect the motor 101 from the power source 124. Although the controller of Farag has

switches to control the power to the motor, the contactors (103-108) have contacts (103, 105, 107) that open and close. Accordingly, the contactors (103-108) described in Farag contain moving parts, and are not solid state switches. Therefore, Farag does not disclose “providing the motor controller to include solid state switches for controlling application of power to the motor,” as recited in independent claim 1.

Furthermore, as described at column 4, lines 54-58 of Farag, commands may be entered to the motor control and protection system by means of an external communications device 125 over an asynchronous serial communications link 127. Although Farag describes entering information using an external communications device 127, Farag does not describe the information entered being parameters related to operation of solid state switches. Therefore, Farag does not disclose “transferring a configuration database file between the controller memory and the external device memory, the configuration database file comprising a plurality of stored parameters relating to operation of the solid state switches,” as recited in independent claim 1.

Thus, for the reasons discussed above, independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited art. For similar reasons, independent claims 11 and 21 are also allowable over the cited art. Claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-27 are dependent upon allowable independent claims 1, 11, and 21, respectively, and are therefore also allowable.

III. Conclusion

For the reasons discussed above, all pending claims are allowable over the cited art. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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